(c) whether Government are also planning to make any long-term policy for production of ethanol and power through co-generation plants to facilitate Indian sugar industry to become a major player in global markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government takes appropriate measures, as and when needed, to address the problems of sugarcane growers and sugar industry.

(c) and (d) The Government has drafted a National Policy on Bio-fuels, which includes bio-ethanol and bio-diesel, for promotion and use of bio-fuels on short, medium and long term basis in the country. As regards co-generation, the Government is implementing a programme for promotion of grid interactive power generation project based on Renewable Energy sources including surplus power generation from bagasse in the sugar mills.

Sugar production in Maharashtra

1223. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISCTIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite lower recovery level, mills in Maharashtra are likely to still end up produing over 70 lakh tonnes of sugar during 2006-07 season;

(b) if so, whether there is no change of earlier estimate of 70 lakh tonnes whether production in 2006-07 would cross a record 70 million tonnes and it would be more in 2007-08;

(c) if so, whether Government have lifted their export ban and Maharashtra is looking at the export option; and

(d) if so, the total export of sugar that would be made during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The sugar production in Maharashtra during 2006-07 sugar season was provisionally estimated

at 70 lac tons. However, as per report received from Cane Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, the sugar production will now be around 81 lac tons. As regards production of sugar in Maharashtra during 2007-08 season, it is too early to make such estimate at this stage.

(c) In view of the estimated higher production of sugar in 2006-07 sugar season, the Government *vide* notification dated 03.01.2007 relaxed ban on export of sugar and allowed export against advance licenses. The Government has further relaxed ban and has allowed export of sugar under OGL *vide* notification dated 23.01.2007 up to the limit approved by the Government. Many merchant exporters/manufacturer exporters have obtained export release orders for export of sugar from Maharashtra.

(d) The Central Government has not fixed any target for export of sugar during 2006-07 season. However, it is estimated that about 15 lac tons would get exported in this season.

Allotment of wheat to Gujarat

1224. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to enhance allotment of wheat to Gujarat;

(b) the reasons for reduction in allotment of wheat to Gujarat and the reasons for non-release of allotted quantity of coarse grains against wheat for May and June; whether Government desires to re-allot the same;

(c) whether Government propose to make available the quantity of bajra and maize which was not released; if so, from which date; and

(d) whether Government propose to adjust the distribution of wheat in lieu of coarse grains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The allocations of wheat under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been rationalized from June, 2006 for all the States, including Gujarat, on the